IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.(original) Use of a first and a second particle, at least one of which is magnetic, in a magnetic field for distinguishing between different strengths of bindings between microbiological entities in a liquid, the use comprising:

- providing a complex between a first particle mobile in the liquid and a first microbiological entity,
- providing conditions within the liquid for a binding between the first microbiological entity and a second microbiological entity;
- bringing a second particle mobile in the liquid into proximity with the complex; and
- acting on the first and/or second particle to apply a mechanical stress to the binding between the first and second microbiological entity while applying the magnetic field to thereby disrupt a binding of a first strength and not to disrupt a binding of a second greater strength.

2.(original) Use according to claim 1 wherein the distinguishing of the strength of a binding is used for the discrimination between a specific and an a-specific binding.

3.(currently amended) Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the first microbiological entity is a target molecule and the second microbiological entity is a capture molecule.

4.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~1 to 3~~, wherein both first and second particles are magnetic particles.

5.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of the~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to~~ 4 wherein a first particle is coupled to a microbiological entity and wherein a second magnetic particle is not coupled to a microbiological entity.

6.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of the~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to~~ 4 wherein both the first and the second particles are coupled to a microbiological entity.

7.(original) The use according to claim 6 wherein the first particle is coupled to a target microbiological entity and the second particle is coupled to a capture microbiological entity.

8.(original) The use according to claim 6 wherein the first particle is coupled to a first target microbiological entity and wherein the second particle is coupled to a second target microbiological entity.

9.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 4~~ to 8~~ wherein the first and/or second magnetic particles is paramagnetic.

10.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 4~~ to~~ ~~9~~ wherein the first magnetic particle has a magnetic moment which is 10 times smaller than the magnetic moment of the second magnetic particle.

11.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any~~ claim~~s~~ 4~~ to 10~~ wherein the size of the first magnetic particle is smaller than the size of the second magnetic particle.

12.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~4 to 11~~ wherein the first magnetic particle has a diameter between 1 nm and 1 μm, more preferably between 10 nm and 200 nm.

13.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~4 to 12~~ wherein the second magnetic particle has a diameter of at least 100 nm.

14.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~1 to 13~~ wherein the first or second microbiological entities are arranged on capture spots on an array.

15.(currently amended) The use according to ~~any of the~~ claims ~~1 to 14~~, wherein only one of the first and second particles is magnetic and the other particle is non-magnetic.

16.(original) The use according to claim 15 wherein the non-magnetic particle is larger than the magnetic particle.

17.(currently amended) The use according ~~any of the~~ to claims ~~1 to 16~~ further comprising the step of applying a fluid frictional force to the first or second microbiological entity.

18.(original) A tool for the distinguishing between bindings of different strengths between microbiological entities, the tool comprising:

- first particles and second particles, at least one of which is magnetic,
- means acting on the first and second particles to thereby exert a mechanical stress on bindings between the first and second microbiological entities and to distinguish between the

bindings of different strengths, the means for exerting a mechanical stress comprising at least a magnetic field generator.

19.(original) A tool according to claim 18 wherein both first and second particles are magnetic or the first particles are magnetic and the second particles are not magnetic.

20.(currently amended) The tool according to claim 18~~ or 19~~, wherein first and/or second particles are coupled to a microbiological entity.

21.(currently amended) The tool according to ~~any of the~~ claim~~s~~ 18 ~~to 21~~ wherein the microbiological entity is a bioactive molecule such as a protein or a peptide.

22.(currently amended) The tool according to ~~any of the~~ claim~~s~~ 18 ~~to 21~~, wherein the means for exerting a mechanical stress includes means for exerting a fluid frictional force on the first or second particles.

23.(currently amended) The tool according to ~~any of the~~ claim~~s~~ 18 ~~to 22~~, further comprising an array of microbiological entities arranged on capture spots on a substrate.

24.(currently amended) The tool according to ~~any of the~~ claim~~s~~ 18 ~~to 23~~, further comprising means for generating an excitation that forces a lateral movement of the particles with respect to the array.

25. (currently amended) Use of the tool according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~18 to 24~~ for the identification, isolation, purification of a specific bound bioactive molecule.